



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Neil R. Aukland, et al.

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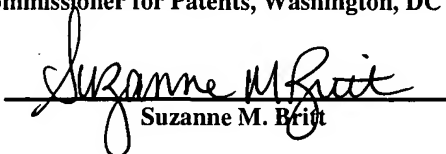
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I hereby certify that this document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on

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Suzanne M. Britt

Box: AMENDMENT
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Please amend the application as follows prior to examination on the merits.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begin on page 5 of this paper.

Drawing Corrections begin on page 9 of this paper

Remarks begin on page 10 of this paper.

Appendices, including corrected drawing figures and clean and marked-up versions of the substitute specification, are attached following page 10 of this paper.